

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-6 and 19-23 remain in this application with claims 1 and 19 being independent claims. Claims 7-18 have been canceled. No claims have been amended.

In the outstanding official action, independent claims 1 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Britt et al. (US Patent 6,226,517). In support of these rejections, the Examiner cites col. 1, lines 49 – col. 2, and col. 1, line 19 – col. 3, line 42 of Britt. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In particular, Britt does not disclose the following from independent claim 1 of the present invention: “...**central node** connected to a number portability database...”; “triggering a first query to the **central node** for information...”; “triggering a second query from the **central node**...”; and “triggering a third query from the **central node**...”. Nor does Britt disclose the following from independent claim 19 of the present invention: “a **central node** in communication with the HLRs”; and first table accessible to the **central node**...”; and “a second table accessible to the **central node**...”. As each and every element of the present invention is neither disclosed, taught nor rendered obvious by the present invention as currently claimed in independent claims 1 and 19, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 2-6, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable over the cited references.

Regarding claims 20-23, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 19, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 19, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable over the cited references.

It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner’s rejection of the claims as set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner

have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL

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